

MAR 13 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVISE ITS ADMINISTRATIVE
RULES AND POLICIES TO FACILITATE AND ENCOURAGE TRADITIONAL
HAWAIIAN BURIALS.

1 WHEREAS, there has been a recent increase of interest in
2 traditional Hawaiian practices for burials amongst Native
3 Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians; and
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5 WHEREAS, a recognized traditional Hawaiian practice for
6 treatment of a corpse involves reducing a corpse to its skeletal
7 remains, known as "iwi", and interring the iwi in a kapa or
8 lauhala container; and
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10 WHEREAS, traditional Hawaiian treatment of a corpse is
11 safe, feasible, and cost effective through the use of modern
12 crematories or other similar operations; and
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14 WHEREAS, modern treatment of corpses often involves
15 chemicals such as embalming fluids which when buried, can be
16 harmful to the environment as the chemicals will eventually be
17 released into the soil and aquifers; and
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19 WHEREAS, in comparison to modern burial techniques, a
20 traditional Hawaiian burial is a cleaner, more environmentally
21 friendly process; and
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23 WHEREAS, a traditional Hawaiian burial is also more cost
24 effective than modern burial techniques as a smaller burial plot
25 is required and costs of caskets are avoided; and
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27 WHEREAS, the decrease in space required for a burial plot
28 will result in an increase in the carrying capacities for
29 cemeteries; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Department of Health does not have rules and
32 policies addressing traditional Hawaiian burial practices; and



WHEREAS, adopting rules and policies to address traditional Hawaiian burial practices would encourage and promote the use of traditional Hawaiian burial practices; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Health is requested to review and implement administrative rules and policies applicable to the processing, burial, and transportation of a corpse that would encourage and promote the use of traditional Hawaiian burial practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to submit a report on its findings and actions to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of Health.

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